

Preface

On October 26-28, 2011, Workshop on the Representation of Time in Asian Languages (WRTAL 2011) was held in Academia Sinica, Taipei. The workshop, hosted by the Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, aimed to provide a forum to share state-of-the-art research developments in typological studies of Asian languages on the theme of ‘representation of time’ (e.g., tense, aspect, modality). There were two invited speeches and thirteen oral presentations at the workshop.

WRTAL 2011 speakers were encouraged to submit their post-conference revised papers to *Language and Linguistics*. Among them Matthias Gerner’s paper on Yi future tense was published in *Language and Linguistics* 14.1. This special issue features five selected revised papers presented at the WRTAL 2011. De Busser’s paper investigates four temporal expressions in Takivatan Bunun, and shows how their positions in a sentence are related to the forms they take. Chung’s paper focuses on the meaning differences between *di* ‘at, in(side)’, *dalam* ‘in(side)’, and *di dalam* ‘in(side)’ in Standard Malaysian Malay based on quantitative studies. Kim’s paper analyses two imperfective periphrastic constructions -KO ISSTA and -A ISSTA of Korean in terms of lexical, grammatical and phasal structure of eventuality. Hsiao’s paper traces the development of the Mongolian temporal system from Middle Mongolian to Modern Mongolian. Coupe’s paper presents a change from nominalizers to TAM markers in Ao, a relatively unknown Tibeto-Burman language.

Each of the papers was sent to at least two anonymous reviewers, whom I take this opportunity to thank for their careful and helpful evaluations. I am grateful to the Editor-in-chief and the Executive editor of the journal *Language and Linguistics*, Chih-Chen Jane Tang and Elizabeth Zeitoun respectively, for their generous support and great efforts that made the publication of this special issue possible. Thanks are also due to our editing assistants, Vicky Chen and Chun-yu Kuo, for professional editorial assistance, and to our English editor, Warren Brewer, for polishing the manuscripts.

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